

**Southerland-Washington House**  
**CH-756**  
**Marbury vic.**  
**Private**

**1908**

The Southerland-Washington House is an example of a common building form in Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. It consists of a two-story, three-bay frame I-house with a rear 2-story service ell. The dwelling is characterized by a broken center-gable on the principal elevation similar to several other examples in the immediate vicinity. The Southerland-Washington House was built for Walter I. and Maggie Southerland in 1908 on land purchased from W. Mitchell Digges, of the Indian Head Land and Improvement Company. In 1939 the property was conveyed to George E. and Eleanor Washington whose heir, Mary Washington Frazier owns the property today. George Frazier worked as a foreman at the Indian Head Naval Ordnance Station. It is one of a number of historic resources in the Marbury vicinity, a town which owes its development to the establishment of the Naval Proving Ground in Indian Head.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-756

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Southerland-Washington House  
other

### 2. Location

street and number 3955 Chicamuxen Road not for publication  
city, town Marbury X vicinity  
county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mary Washington Frazier  
street and number 3955 Chicamuxen Road telephone 301-753-6589  
city, town Marbury state MD zip code 20658

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 20 p. 135  
city, town La Plata liber 360 folio 14

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1 1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CH-756

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Southerland-Washington House is an example of a common building form in Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. It consists of a two-story, three-bay frame I-house with a rear 2-story service ell. The dwelling is characterized by a broken center-gable with three-part arched window in the attic story on the principal elevation, similar to several other examples in the immediate vicinity. The dwelling faces north and once fronted Creeds Mill Road. The north elevation includes three second story bays containing 1/1 replacement windows, a 3-light arched gable window in the pediment and recently enclosed shed-roof porch.

The east elevation faces Chicamuxen Road and includes a two-bay main block with symmetrical first and second-story windows. This is mirrored on the west elevation of the main block. The rear ell holds a single second-story window above a hipped-roof, enclosed-porch rear entry. The rear elevation includes an offset second-story window above a shed roof rear addition. The west elevation includes a single first and second-story windows.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-756

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1908

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1908

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Southerland-Washington House was built for Walter I. and Maggie Southerland in 1908 on land purchased from W. Mitchell Digges, of the Indian Head Land and Improvement Company. In 1939 the property was conveyed to George E. and Eleanor Washington whose heir, Mary Washington Frazier owns the property today. George Frazier worked as a foreman at Indian Head Naval Ordnance Station. It is one of a number of historic resources in the Marbury vicinity, a town which owes its development to the establishment of the Naval Proving Ground in Indian Head.

The single most important and long-lasting industry established in Charles County during this period was the naval ordnance manufacturing plant built at Mattawoman Neck in 1890. The Naval Proving Ground was moved to Mattawoman Neck when transportation from the former Proving Ground at Annapolis to the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC became too dangerous. Nearly nine hundred acres of land was purchased for the proving ground, and later supplemented by an additional ten thousand acres on Stump Neck. In 1898, the Naval Powder Factory was constructed, and the first powder was manufactured in 1900. During World War I, transportation to and from the factory was improved by the construction of a railroad spur from White Plains in 1917.

Although the Proving Ground was moved to Dahlgren, Virginia in 1921, the plant continued to operate and began tests that would lead to the development of jet propulsion and rocket testing at the naval station. From the beginning, the plant and proving ground provided an important and stable center of employment for the county. During the war years, the plant expanded, requiring more laborers. The town of Indian Head grew up just opposite the gates of the installation. The Navy contributed to the housing and education of its employees and their children by building housing and a school at Indian Head.

Marbury was connected to the Proving Ground, at first by a locally built narrow footbridge and after 1917, by a unique hand drawn footbridge that allowed coal barges to proceed upstream along Mattawoman Creek. Congressman Sydney Mudd was the driving force behind the federally funded footbridge construction stating that, "the purpose of this bridge is to afford direct and convenient communication to the government employees, for nearly 50% of them have homes on the Marbury side of the Creek. Further evidence of the impact of the proving ground on the adjoining region can be found in census records from 1890-1920. The election district of Pomonkey, including Indian Head and Marbury, was the only area of growth in Charles County during the period. Between 1910 and 1920 the population nearly doubled from 1,589 to 3,124 residents. In 1920, a new census district was established in Marbury having a population of 1,392.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-756

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2.24

Acreage of historical setting 5

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Southerland-Washington House is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 20, Parcel 135.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 1/3/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600





CH- 756 Charles County, MD  
Name: SOUTHERLAND-WASHINGTON Hk.  
Location: MARBURY VIL.  
Quad: INDIAN HEAD



CH-756

SOUTHERLAND-WASHINGTON HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

9/2002

C. HARDY

MILP

LOOKING SOUTH

10x3





CH-756

Southeastland - Wash Hc  
Charles Co, MD

9/2002

C. HARRY

MIHP, LOOKING NW

2 OF 3



CH-756  
SOUTHERLAND-WASHINGTON HS.  
CHARLES CO, MD  
9/2002  
LOOZ C, HARDY  
MIHP

LOOKING N  
3 OF 3